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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK

THE NEW SCHOOL OF THE ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE IN PARIS

AN interesting ceremony to inaugurate the second year of the new training school for nurses on the grounds of the *Salpêtrière* took place on the 4th of November last, when M. Cruppi, president of the Board of Trade and Industry, who had been delegated by the government, presided over a gathering composed of many members of the Paris County Council, the Board of Charity, and the medical profession, among whom was Dr. Landouzy, dean of the medical faculty, M. Liard, vice-rector of the Paris University, and the president of the medical academy. The guests were received in the open court before the school by M. Mesureur, director of the Assistance Publique, and others, and in the building by Mme. Jacques, matron, and her two assistants, Mlles. Haxaire and Grenier, and M. André Mesureur, with the teachers and professors of the school.

Addresses were made to a large gathering in the beautiful amphitheatre of the school by M. Cherioux, president of the Paris County Council; M. Mesureur, Dr. Sebileau, M. Cruppi and others. Our limited space does not permit more than brief quotations from the proceedings: M. Mesureur gave a very interesting account of the origin of the school; his predecessor in office, M. Mourier, after a visit made to the London hospitals, had planned to erect a building as home and school for hospital nurses with a view to raising the standard of nursing in the Paris hospitals, but his plans were interrupted by death. M. Mesureur, in 1902, found the project among the papers outlining the many reforms M. Mourier had desired to carry out, and determined to complete it. At the end of December, in the same year, the building of the new school was decided by the County Council.

Dr. Sebileau outlined the technical and professional preparation of the nurses, and all the speeches took a high tone as to the need of higher education and careful training.

The school is intended to train nurses for the Paris hospitals only. After being trained, they will be given permanent positions in these hospitals, but, as M. Mesureur pointed out, it would take thirty years for the graduates of the school to fill the 2000 places that there are for

head nurses, assistants, and senior nurses alone, in these vast hospitals, so that certain signs of jealousy on the part of present incumbents are uncalled for. His address intimated the various troubles met with by the directors and matron of the school, which we can all easily understand when we realize that these pupils are removed from the arbitrary and sole dictation of the many hospital directors and physicians of staff. "As the best men become unjust when their habits and ideas of authority are interfered with" (said M. Mesureur) "the school underwent a kind of ostracism from the highest to the lowest, and the hospital rules allowed many petty annoyances to be inflicted upon it. The orders for supplies were not complied with, because they were not worded according to the usual forms; one day, the cart that collected the linen was not allowed to stop at the school, and the pupils had to carry their own clothing to the laundry. When the pupils went for the first time to the hospital wards, they received a cool welcome. Here, they were not needed; they might sit down; there, on the other hand, the scrubbers were told to sit down and the pupils ordered to do the housework and cleaning."

To understand this, our readers will remember that these pupils are at present sent into different ones of the large hospitals, as the new Pitié, where they will in the future receive their whole course of training, is not yet complete.

We congratulate M. Mesureur and Mme. Jacques on their successful struggle against many difficulties; we have said before this that the reformation of the nursing in the Paris hospitals is the most difficult problem in the civilized world at present (in matters of nursing, it is understood), on account of the centralized government of these hospitals. Compared with the old system, a wonderful advance has been made. For ourselves, we will admit frankly that we would have been glad to see this new school established entirely, throughout, on the same lines as the two Bordeaux schools, which we regard as in every particular the model schools of France; we regret, also, that Paris has never seemed ready to show a cordial recognition of the great service done to their common country by these two schools, in which all French citizens should take a common pride, just as all England did honor to St. Thomas, the school of Miss Nightingale.

We have, however, always felt that it would take a long time to bring about in Paris hospitals the fundamental basis on which the Bordeaux schools rest, namely, the control of ward management, ward housekeeping, and ward discipline, placed in the hands of the head of the nursing staff.

We firmly believe that the liberality and high purposes of M.

Mesureur and his immediate group, including M. Montreuil the progressive Director of the *Salpêtrière*, if they were allowed full sway, would speedily bring this about, and we rely confidently on their good purposes and principles to advance the nursing reform so nobly begun.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

THE Council met on the 27th of November and transacted much important detail relative to the meeting next July of the International Council. Tickets admitting to all meetings of the nursing congress to be held at that time will cost 75 cents, single tickets 25 cents. The International Council depends on the sale of these tickets to help out with current expenses of meeting, the British Council in the meantime raising a guarantee fund.

A nursing exhibition, consisting largely of nurses' practical handiwork, is to be held in conjunction with the congress. The program plan is to have only two papers at a session, with ample time for discussion, and it was decided to give one session, to which women only should be admitted, to the question of moral prophylaxis (teachings of sex hygiene, public education as to venereal disease).

It was suggested that a paper on the "Relations of Medicine and Nursing" might cover important points, and, speaking personally, we would say that here might be the opportunity to present to the medical profession in America the need of some recognition in the Code of Ethics of medicine of the doubtful ethical principle involved in the diploma of the private special hospital.

Miss Isla Stewart will entertain the delegates and guests at a reception on the evening of Monday, July 19, at which time the new countries will be admitted into membership—a delightful occasion, and those who have once enjoyed Miss Stewart's hospitality will know how much pleasure to expect. Miss Forrest, of Bournemouth, also offered to entertain the delegates, and it was decided to have a banquet on the evening of the 21st or 22d of July.

The British National Council has affiliated with the National Union of Women Workers, and its standing committees on Navy and Army Nursing, Poorlaw, District, and School Nursing, Mental, Private, Fever Nursing, and Prison Nursing are intended to hold a brief for the Council in important special branches of nursing, and help it by expert advice. One duty would be to compile annually, for presentation to the Council, a brief résumé of progress on important matters in nursing. Such reports, published year by year, would give a valuable history of nursing.